

2. As the NJAG's local counsel made clear at this Court's status conference on September 28, 2020, the NJAG intends to file a motion to transfer venue to the District of New

Jersey. On November 10, 2020, Plaintiffs filed their Second Amended Complaint which added unrelated claims against U.S. State Department officials, thereby requiring the NJAG to file a motion to sever in conjunction with the motion to transfer venue.

3. In an effort to fully inform the Court of the wide range of issues related to transferring venue to the District of New Jersey, including issues concerning the severance of the U.S. State Department defendants before transfer is made, the NJAG has prepared a twenty page brief: (i) stating the procedural and factual background of this case; (ii) analyzing and arguing why transfer to the District of New Jersey is appropriate under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1404 and 1406; and (iii) explaining why the claims against U.S. State Department officials added in Plaintiffs' Second Amended Complaint should be severed. The NJAG has exercised concise writing and disciplined editing, but still finds it necessary to brief these issues similar to a dispositive motion. Moreover, while the various grounds for the motions to transfer and sever could be brought in multiple documents, inclusion in one motion is more efficient given their relatedness.

4. Moreover, this Court will have to consider and decide issues of great importance, for which thorough briefing will be needed. As Justice Brandeis once noted, "[a] judge rarely performs his functions adequately unless the case before him is adequately presented." *The Living Law*, 10 ILL. L. REV. 461, 470 (1916). To enable the Court to adequately perform its important judicial review function in this case, thorough briefing will be indispensable to a just result.

WHEREFORE, the NJAG seeks authorization to file a motion to transfer of twenty (20) pages.

DATED: November 18, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF CONFERENCE

I hereby certify that counsel for the NJAG attempted to confer with Plaintiffs' counsel by phone and by email to discuss this motion, but hearing no response NJAG's counsel assumes that Plaintiffs are opposed.

/s/ Casey Low

Casey Low